



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 6226

LCO No. 2587

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Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING CROSS-REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) Any animal control
2 officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a of the
3 general statutes, who (1) has reasonable cause to suspect that an
4 animal observed in the course of the officer's employment is being or
5 has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly in violation of section
6 53-247 of the general statutes, and (2) files a verified petition with the
7 Superior Court pursuant to section 22-329a of the general statutes,
8 shall make a written report to the Commissioner of Agriculture in
9 accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

10 (b) The report shall be made by the officer as soon as practicable, but
11 not later than forty-eight hours after the officer has filed the verified
12 petition. Each report shall contain, if known: (1) The address where the
13 animal was observed and the name and address of the owner or other
14 person responsible for care of the animal; (2) the name and a
15 description of the animal; (3) the nature and extent of the harm, neglect
16 or cruelty to the animal; (4) the approximate date and time such harm,
17 neglect or cruelty occurred; (5) any information concerning any

18 previous harm to, neglect of or cruelty toward the animal; (6) the
19 circumstances under which such harm, neglect or cruelty came to be
20 known by the officer; and (7) the name of every person the officer
21 reasonably suspects to be responsible for such harm, neglect or cruelty.

22 (c) Not later than November 1, 2011, and monthly thereafter, the
23 Commissioner of Agriculture shall send a report to the Commissioner
24 of Children and Families containing all of the information received
25 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section during the preceding month.

26 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) Not later than one week
27 after receiving a report pursuant to subsection (c) of section 1 of this
28 act, the Commissioner of Children and Families shall determine if any
29 address where an animal was reportedly harmed, neglected or treated
30 cruelly is an address where the Department of Children and Families
31 has opened an investigation of a child pursuant to a report of abuse or
32 neglect made under chapter 319a of the general statutes. If the
33 commissioner determines that there is an open investigation of a child
34 at the same address where an animal was reportedly harmed,
35 neglected or treated cruelly, the commissioner shall inform the
36 department's investigator of the reported harm, neglect or cruelty to
37 the animal. The department shall include such information provided to
38 the investigator in the department's record on the child.

39 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) Any employee of the
40 Department of Children and Families who, in the course of his or her
41 employment, has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is being or
42 has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly in violation of section
43 53-247 of the general statutes shall make an anonymous oral report to
44 the Commissioner of Agriculture in accordance with subsection (b) of
45 this section, except that such report shall not be required if the
46 employee determines that making such report will interfere with the
47 performance of the employee's child welfare duties set forth in chapter
48 319a of the general statutes.

49 (b) A report made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be

50 made as soon as practicable, but not later than forty-eight hours after
 51 the employee has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal has been
 52 harmed, neglected or treated cruelly, and shall contain the following, if
 53 known: (1) The address where the animal was observed and the name
 54 and address of the owner or other person responsible for care of the
 55 animal; (2) the name and a description of the animal; (3) the nature and
 56 extent of the harm, neglect or cruelty to the animal; and (4) the
 57 approximate date and time such harm, neglect or cruelty was
 58 suspected.

59 (c) Not later than October 1, 2012, and annually thereafter, the
 60 Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation with the
 61 Commissioner of Agriculture and within available appropriations,
 62 shall develop and implement training for Department of Children and
 63 Families' employees concerning the identification of harm to, neglect of
 64 and cruelty toward animals and its relationship to child welfare case
 65 practice.

66 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) The Commissioner of
 67 Children and Families shall, within available appropriations, make
 68 available to all animal control officers training concerning the accurate
 69 and prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require cross-reporting of child abuse and animal cruelty.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]